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CONFERENCE ON THE CONTROL OF THE COLORADO BEETLE

- USSR -

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CONFERENCE ON THE CONTROL OF THE COLORADO
BEETLE

V.V. Abramenko

Zashchita Rasteniy ot
Vreditel'ey i Bolezney

[Plant Protection from
Pests and Disease],
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In connection with the protracted occurrence of the Colorado potato beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*), on the suggestion of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czechoslovakian Republic, a conference was convened in Prague during August of this year on the control of this pest, in which representatives of Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Rumania, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union participated. Our country was represented by Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the USSR G.A. Borkov (leader of the delegation), Chief Agronomist for Quarantine and Plant Protection of the Ministry of Agriculture USSR V.V. Abramenko and Chief of State Inspection for Plant Quarantine of the Ministry of Agriculture USSR in the Ukrainian SSR Z.F. Kryachko.

The protection of potato crops from the Colorado potato beetle is a problem of great governmental significance. For example, in Poland during 1959 more than one million hectares were treated with chemical preparations to control this pest, for which about 400 million

zlotys were spent. In Czechoslovakia the chemical treatment of potato plantings was performed on an area of 591 thousand hectares, for which about 40 million koruny were expended, in the German Democratic Republic - on 590 thousand hectares, in Hungary 325 thousand hectares, and in Rumania - on 60 thousand hectares.

The conference signaled the necessity of attaching state-wide interest to enforcing Colorado potato beetle control measures in the participating lands and of considering these obligatory for all producers of potatoes and other crops which are attacked by this pest. One established a subdivision of the territory into zones of strong and partial infestation and belts threatened or protected from this pest, ranging up to 200 km, which border on the zone of partial infestation. The classification of administrative districts into one or the other category is undertaken by the ministry of agriculture.

It was recognized that the discovery of the breeding grounds of the Colorado potato beetle should be realized first of all by the holders of potato plantings. Weekly inspection of their plots must be required of them in all infested zones.

Besides this, teams made up of local inhabitants should inspect the potato sowings. In strongly infested zones two teams of continuous control inspections are needed. Chemical treatments of the potato plantings are necessitated in such proportions and concentration here, as to prohibit large-scale reproduction of the pest.

In the zone of partial infestation four to five team inspections are to be provided in relation to the number of generations of the pest, and chemical control until the beetle is completely wiped out. Aside from the directly infested fields, the treatment of all the potato plantings lying within a 300-500 meter radius is recommended.

In the zones which are threatened or protected, in the advent of Colorado potato beetle breeding grounds being discovered, radical liquidation methods are suggested - disinfection of the ground in the breeding areas and chemical treatment of potato plantings within a 500-1000 m radius. Having noted the positive role played by the bilateral joint commission formed in 1958, the conference expressed the desire to establish at the SEV a single joint committee on the control of the Colorado potato beetle and the fall webworm (*Hyphantria cunea*), composed of specialists from the interested countries.

Having confirmed the shortcomings of the measures used to control the Colorado potato beetle in several

countries of western and south-eastern Europe, the conference turned to European and Mediterranean organizations for plant protection with the request that this problem be discussed at the next session of the European Plant Protection Organization.

THE END

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